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Bangalore Mirror

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JUNE DIARY

June in city is known for moderate temperatures but over last few years, extreme weather has become new normal

PAGE 2

GREAT GAMBLE

With annual deposits adding up to $100 bn, unregulated gambling platforms endangering youth, choking country's financial security

PAGE 5

Jewellery shop owners complain to association about police harassment during search and recovery operations, they allege officials often turn up in mufti, without body cameras or proper paperwork

THE LURE OF GOLD

Procedure not followed when cops enter shops to recover stolen gold

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Several jewellery shop owners across Bengaluru have raised serious concerns over alleged police harassment during search and recovery operations. Police are required to wear uniforms, use body cameras, and review CCTV footage during such visits to ensure transparency and accountability. However, traders say these rules are rarely followed on the ground.

While these measures were introduced to protect the rights of traders and ensure fair procedures, the reality, according to many in the industry, paints a very different picture.

Shop owners and traders have complained to the Karnataka Jewellery Shop Association about police harassment during search and recovery operations. Acting on these concerns, the Association had brought the issue to the attention of then DG&IGP Alok Mohan as well.

The police are required to wear uniforms during searches, use body cameras to record the process, and review CCTV footage from the premises. Officers are also required to show the arrest warrant or official circular, carry out the recovery in front of independent witnesses, and prepare a proper panchnama with signatures, all while recording the entire operation.

"Despite the recent order outlining procedural steps for police to ensure transparency and safeguard traders' rights, little has changed on the ground

— Trader

However, despite these instructions, many shop owners say the rules are not being followed. They allege that officers often come in plain clothes, without proper paperwork, and sometimes even assault staff

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

Raze against time

Citizens complain after sand and mud dumped at Sankey Tank wipes out wetland that was home to several species of birds

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The last natural green patch in the Sankey Tank area has been razed down by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), walkers at the lake have alleged.

They say nearly 200 truckloads of sand and mud have been dumped on the northern boundary of the lake over the last couple of days, wrecking the only natural littoral zone of Sankey, also a nesting ground for 20-30 moorhens.

"Over the last two to three days, a lot of sand and mud have been dumped, wiping out this natural green patch, which was a little wetland with reeds and other grass. A colony of moorhens also lived in this wetland, separate from the rest of the bird population in Sankey. This work was taken up without any regard for the lake's flora and fauna," said Ravi, a resident of Sadashivnagar and a regular walker.

The issue has been taken up by Citizens for Sankey and the Sadashivnagar

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Ode to legends

Rishtey 6.0, a musical tribute, will be celebrating the timeless works of Salil Choudhary and RD Burman, musical maestros who left an indelible mark on Indian cinema and music.
Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Malleshwaram;
When: June 7, 5.45 pm

02 Play time

Ranga Shankara is organising 'Tila', a puppet play for children above 6 years of age, about Tila, a trickster who always believes he is cleverer than others.
Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar;
When: June 8, 3.30 pm and 6 pm

03 Crafted delights

Bangalore Dastkar Bazaar 2025 is bringing a celebration of culture, rich cuisines, mind-blowing performances, crafts and workshops, delicious food - all under one sky.
Where: Freedom Park, Gandhinagar;
When: May 28 to June 3, 11 am to 8 pm

04 Magical wonders

MINISO India is organising the second chapter of the exclusive Harry Potter pop-up studio, bringing the spellbinding charm of the wizarding world to life with over 300 officially licensed Harry Potter products available exclusively.
Where: Nexus Mall, Koramangala;
When: May 1 to June 3

05 All that jazz

Seven-time Grammy winner Randy Brecker and two-time Grammy winner Peter Erskine will be performing in Bengaluru for the first time. Their band includes acclaimed musicians Yaacov Mayman, Otmaru Ruiz, and Richie Goods.
Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte;
When: July 6, 6.30 pm

Past data reveals erratic shift in June weather

Early June weather pattern combining extreme heat and sudden, record-breaking rainfall are clear signs of changing climatic rhythm, says expert

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Shift in weather patterns is attributed to a mix of global climate change and local urban factors

After a record-breaking spell of pre-monsoon showers in May, all attention turned to June. While India Meteorological Department (IMD) officials had initially predicted a dry spell to start the month, with clear skies and sunny weather over Bengaluru, what followed was anything but ordinary.

June 2024 had etched its name in the city's weather records for its dramatic shifts. On June 3, Bengaluru recorded an unprecedented 111.1 mm of rainfall in 24 hours, equalling the city's all-time high for the month. The total monthly rainfall touched 204.1 mm, almost double the June average of 110.3 mm. Adding to the unusual weather, the mercury soared to 35.4°C on June 1, making it the hottest June day in over a decade.

An unusual monsoon onset

A weather expert said, "Traditionally considered a transitional month leading into the southwest monsoon, June in Bengaluru has been known for moderate temperatures and scattered pre-monsoon showers. However, the data suggests that this trend is rapidly changing." The expert said that heavy downpours, abrupt temperature shifts, and intense thunderstorm activity are now becoming the norm rather than the exception. "This year's early June weather pattern combined extreme heat and sudden, record-breaking rainfall—clear signs of a changing climatic rhythm," the expert said.

Experts stress the need for improved urban planning, better stormwater management, and climate-resilient infrastructure

Comparing past Junes: 2024 stands out

A look at the past decade confirms this shift. In contrast to 2024's 204.1 mm of rain, 2023 recorded just 72.3 mm, and 2022 saw a comparable 207.7 mm, albeit with less intense single-day events. Other years such as 2012 and 2017 experienced dry Junes, with rainfall totals of only 7.2 mm and 25.1 mm respectively. Meanwhile, the maximum temperatures have also remained consistently high—frequently crossing 33°C in recent years—signifying a warming trend.

Climatology vs reality

According to the climatological norms for Bengaluru based data from 1991–2020, the average maximum temperature for June is 29.7°C, and the average monthly rainfall is 110.3 mm spread across about 6.8 rainy days. Thunderstorms are expected on about four days during the month. In 2024, the city experienced rainfall nearly twice the average, and temperatures consistently above the norm, highlighting a sharp deviation from the historical patterns.

Impact of urbanisation and climate change

Experts attribute these shifts to a mix of global climate change and local urban factors. It is said that the urban heat island effect, caused by unchecked concretisation and reduced green cover, is elevating temperatures. At the same time, climate change is intensifying monsoon patterns, leading to shorter but more violent bursts of rainfall. The resulting consequences—urban flooding, tree falls, power cuts, and traffic gridlocks—have become increasingly familiar to Bengaluru's residents.

A senior official from the India Meteorological Department remarked that Bengaluru's weather was once predictable and relatively mild, but now mirrors the volatility seen in larger metros. "The intensity of rain in short bursts, combined with a persistent heat spell, is no longer an anomaly—it's becoming a pattern," the official noted.

Where do we go from here?

With June now showing clear signs of becoming more extreme each year, experts stress the need for improved urban planning, better stormwater management, and climate-resilient infrastructure. The data from 2024 is a loud warning bell: unless proactive measures are taken, Bengaluru could face even more severe weather challenges in the coming years.

HC denies petition seeking dismissal of fraud case

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The Karnataka High Court has declined to nullify proceedings against an individual accused of bank fraud, ruling that absence from the initial complaint is not sufficient grounds for dismissal.

Justice Mohammad Nawaz, whilst dismissing a petition by Puneet HR, upheld charges under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Information Technology Act, 2000, and Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

The court stated, "The petitioner's involvement emerged during investigation and therefore, he cannot claim protection solely on the ground that his name did not appear in the original complaint."

The case originated when Pramod Kumar YS, Assistant General Manager and Branch Head of IDBI Bank Ltd, filed a complaint regarding fund misappropriation by Sajila Gurumurthy, a bank manager.

Unauthorised fund transfers from customer accounts occurred between March 23, 2022, to December 26, 2022. Accounts were debited without authorisation, with funds being redirected to other bank accounts.

Investigations revealed transfers of approximately Rs 3.37 crores to various accounts belonging to the petitioner through RTGS/NEFT, leading to his inclusion in the chargesheet.

The petitioner sought dismissal, arguing that the initial complaint targeted only Sajila Gurumurthy. He maintained his subsequent inclusion as accused no 4 was unfounded, denying any fiduciary relationship with the bank or involvement in fraudulent activities.

The complainant countered that over Rs 3.80 crores was illegally transferred to the petitioner's accounts. Evidence included seized sale deeds and a white BMW car purchased with fraudulent funds.

The state government affirmed the petitioner's involvement was established during investigation, presenting a prima-facie case.

The court noted that subsequent investigation revealed collusion between accused no 1, 2, 3 and the petitioner, involving transfers totalling Rs 3,35,13,122.37 to the petitioner's ICICI accounts.

The bench concluded that sufficient evidence existed to maintain proceedings, stating that ongoing investigations and the exclusion of other named individuals from the chargesheet did not warrant dismissal of charges against the petitioner.

The court emphasised that absence from initial complaints does not absolve criminal liability, and individuals identified during investigations can be legitimately added to charge sheets. The bench concluded that there was adequate prima facie evidence against the petitioner to sustain the charges.

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33 new waste packages to reshape BBMP jurisdiction

Bengaluru issues ₹544.91 crore tender over 33 packages, aiming to transform solid waste management with fairer terms and stricter segregation rules in place

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In a major move to overhaul its waste disposal system, fresh tenders have been invited for solid waste management under 33 packages, estimated at a total annual cost of ₹544.91 crore. These tenders cover a comprehensive scope of primary waste collection, secondary transfer, and the collection of waste from roadside bins across various divisions. Although the tender is classified as division-wise, each package corresponds to the jurisdiction of one Assembly constituency.

The tender has been issued by the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML), which has mandated that the waste must be collected in a segregated manner. Only NGOs, trusts, and partnership firms are eligible to participate. A key condition is that each entity can be awarded only one package, limiting monopolistic control and ensuring broader participation. The tender was floated on May 28, and interested bidders have until June 27 to submit their bids. The technical bids will be opened on June 30. Each contract will be valid for a period of seven years.

BSWML unveils fresh 7-year solid waste contracts

Package distribution and scope

Sources said that the BBMP's jurisdiction includes 27 Assembly constituencies (excluding Anekal). Of these, 21 constituencies will be allocated one package each, while six — Bengaluru South, Dasarahalli, Mahadevapura, KR Puram, Yeshwanthpur, and Rajarajeshwari Nagar — will have two packages each, due to their larger size and higher waste generation.

While the total value of ₹544.91 crore has been estimated, officials note that the final cost may rise depending on the bid quotes received. In the previous round of tenders in 2022, bid values had surged by 18% to 60% above the base estimate.

Why 33 packages now?

In September 2022, BSWML had initially floated tenders across 89 packages, covering various aspects of waste collection, transportation, and segregation. However, many applicants failed to meet technical eligibility criteria, leading to the cancellation of the tender. The second round, issued in January 2023, also hit a roadblock, as certain applicants were disqualified for minor reasons, leading to legal disputes. The government assured the court it would initiate a fresh tendering process. After receiving cabinet approval, the new tender comprising 33 packages has now been announced.

Estimated annual cost

The estimated annual costs for the waste management packages range from ₹9.55 crore to ₹25.97 crore. Bommanahalli tops the list at ₹25.97 crore, followed by Padmanabhanagar at ₹22.94 crore and Byatarayanapura at ₹22.65 crore. Vijayanagar and Chickpet are pegged at ₹21.41 crore

BSWML's 2022 bid to reform waste management via 89 packages failed as most applicants didn't meet technical criteria, leading to tender cancellation

and ₹20.16 crore respectively. Mahadevapura-1 and Mahadevapura-2 stand at ₹18.98 crore and ₹18.65 crore, with Rajarajeshwari Nagar-2 at ₹18.59 crore. Malleswaram and Basavanagudi have costs of ₹17.96 crore and ₹17.24 crore, while Sarvagnanagar and Shivajinagar are estimated at ₹17.51 crore and ₹17.23 crore. Pulakeshinagar and Rajarajeshwari Nagar-1 follow at ₹16.70 crore and ₹16.33 crore. KR Puram-2 is at ₹16.90 crore, and Yeshwanthpur-2 at ₹15.69 crore. Gandhinagar and Hebbal are ₹15.96 crore and ₹15.16 crore, while Dasarahalli-1 and Dasarahalli-2 are ₹15.05 crore and ₹14.94 crore respectively. Chamarajpet, Yeshwanthpur-1, and BTM Layout are pegged between ₹14.85 crore and ₹14.57 crore. KR Puram-1 and CV Raman Nagar are around ₹14.16 crore and ₹14.77 crore. Rajajinagar and Govindarajnagar are at ₹13.44 crore and ₹13.38 crore. The lower end includes Jayanagar and Mahalakshmi Layout at ₹12.84 crore each, and Yelahanka at ₹12.14 crore. Bengaluru South-2 records the lowest cost at ₹9.55 crore.

Citizens demand action on illegal waste dumping

Around 100 residents of LBS Nagar marched to raise awareness about illegal garbage dumping and push BBMP for better waste management and cleaner streets

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Around 100 residents of LBS Nagar in East Bengaluru took out a procession on Sunday to create awareness among the public on the importance of keeping the locality free from garbage. The procession is also aimed at ending indiscriminate dumping of waste on the roads in the area.

The procession began at 9 am and concluded at 11 am. The residents have also created awareness on the importance of parking vehicles at the designated places to ensure no traffic jams in the area.

"The problem with the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) authorities is that they have failed to ensure pourakarmikas collect garbage from door to door on a regular basis. I want the BBMP authorities to increase the number of vehicles and manpower to collect garbage from the doorsteps on a regular basis," said Devendra Kumar, a resident.

Residents of LB Shastri Nagar taking out a procession

He said that the traffic police have to penalise vehicle owners for parking vehicles haphazardly on the roads. "One can find so many vehicles parked haphazardly on the main road. It causes not only inconvenience to the motorists and pedestrians but also causes traffic jams," he said.

Emphasising the need of ensuring garbage collection from door to door on a regular basis, Sneha Shivaram, a resident, said that BBMP marshals should keep a vigil on those creating black spots in the area. "We have circulated posters on best practices on waste segregation. We have also come to know the root cause of why the dumping is happening in the areas. We want the BBMP authorities to ensure cleanliness in the area," said Shivaram.

> "The problem with the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) authorities is that they have failed to ensure pourakarmikas collect garbage from door to door on a regular basis
>
> –Devendra Kumar, a resident

Expressing concern over the dumping of garbage on the roads, Nisha Menon, a resident, said that she finds it difficult to commute on the roads where garbage is dumped on both sides. "We have already complained to the BBMP authorities to fix this problem," she said.

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Waste zone
Chamrajpet

In Chamrajpet 5th Main Road, BBMP pourakarmikas have been dumping collected garbage in front of homes and workplaces, claiming it will be cleared later. However, the garbage remains unattended, causing serious inconvenience to residents.

Urban neglect
Nagareshwara

The narrow, damaged road at Nagareshwara Nagenahalli leads to daily traffic snarls and vehicle trouble, especially during rains. The lack of footpaths and increasing commercial activity make it unsafe and difficult for both commuters and pedestrians.

Pedestrian risk
Shankar Mutt Circle

A broken pedestrian slab near Shankar Mutt Circle, Kirloskar Colony, has been ignored for over a month despite many complaints to BBMP and local authorities, with no visible action taken.

Report reveals alarming rise in online gambling

Many betting platforms offer instant withdrawals and real-money play without any verification, making them untraceable for regulators, say authorities

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Over 66% of traffic to these platforms comes via direct URLs or private sharing, suggesting strong user trust and brand recognition, even in illegality

A new report by Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS) International has raised alarm over the unchecked rise of illegal online gambling in India, revealing that unregulated platforms are not only endangering minors and young adults but also threatening the country's financial security. With annual deposits estimated at a staggering $100 billion, CUTS has urged immediate regulatory action.

Between April 2024 and March 2025, the top 15 illegal gambling websites clocked over 5.4 billion visits through at least 40 mirror domains, the report said. These platforms, often based offshore, are exploiting loopholes in India's advertising and payment infrastructure to rake in crores while operating under the radar.

A key concern flagged is the aggressive targeting of vulnerable youth. Many platforms offer high-stakes, immersive games without enforcing age restrictions or identity verification. Some even use manipulative psychological tools to hook sensation-seeking users, while others accept cash-on-delivery payments—bypassing digital gateways and enabling underage participation.

Finance Ministry's crackdown continues

The Ministry of Finance has intensified its crackdown on illegal gaming platforms. Nearly 700 offshore entities are under investigation, with 357 gambling-related websites and apps blocked so far. This includes a recent wave of bans on popular gaming apps found to be enabling unauthorised betting and fund transfers.

In April alone, the Directorate General of Goods and Service Tax (GST) Intelligence (DGGI) ordered the blocking of 1,410 apps and websites, including several foreign-based platforms, under provisions of the Information Technology Act and GST laws. Of these, 357 were found to be directly linked to gambling and foreign betting operations. Authorities noted that several platforms offered instant withdrawals and allowed real-money play without any KYC verification, making them particularly accessible to minors and untraceable for regulators. In many cases, these apps had been downloaded millions of times before being taken down.

The CUTS report echoed these concerns, particularly highlighting the misuse of payment channels. Illegal operators reportedly rely on unauthorised UPI routes, mule accounts, and advanced apps to discreetly move money across borders. This systemic abuse, experts warn, not only fuels addiction but may also enable money laundering.

Notably, over 66% of traffic to these platforms comes via direct URLs or private sharing, suggesting strong user trust and brand recognition, even in illegality.

Calling the current approach "manual and reactive," CUTS urged the formation of a national regulatory framework backed by an inter-ministerial task force. It also recommended closer collaboration with tech firms, awareness campaigns, and behavioural studies to curb addiction. Without swift action, the report warned, India risks losing both lives and livelihoods to this shadow economy.

When the fence begins to eat the crop

The two Assistant Sub-Inspectors (Traffic) on the premises of Visvesvaraya Tower on Sunday evening

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In a bizarre incident, security guards and police personnel were found stealing jackfruit from a government building in the Central Business District, situated just a stone's throw away from the Office of the Commissioner of Police and the Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic).

While walking past the Visvesvaraya Tower on Dr BR Ambedkar Road on Sunday evening, this correspondent found two Assistant Sub-Inspectors (Traffic) blissfully encouraging a security guard to pluck jackfruit from a tree on the premises of Visvesvaraya Tower, instead of regulating vehicular traffic on Dr BR Ambedkar Road between GPO Junction and Balekundri Junction.

When questioned, Mahesha, one of the two security guards, said that he was helping another security guard pluck the jackfruit, under the direction of the two Assistant Sub-Inspectors. Shockingly, even as the two Assistant Sub-Inspectors were photographed in the act, they remained unbothered.

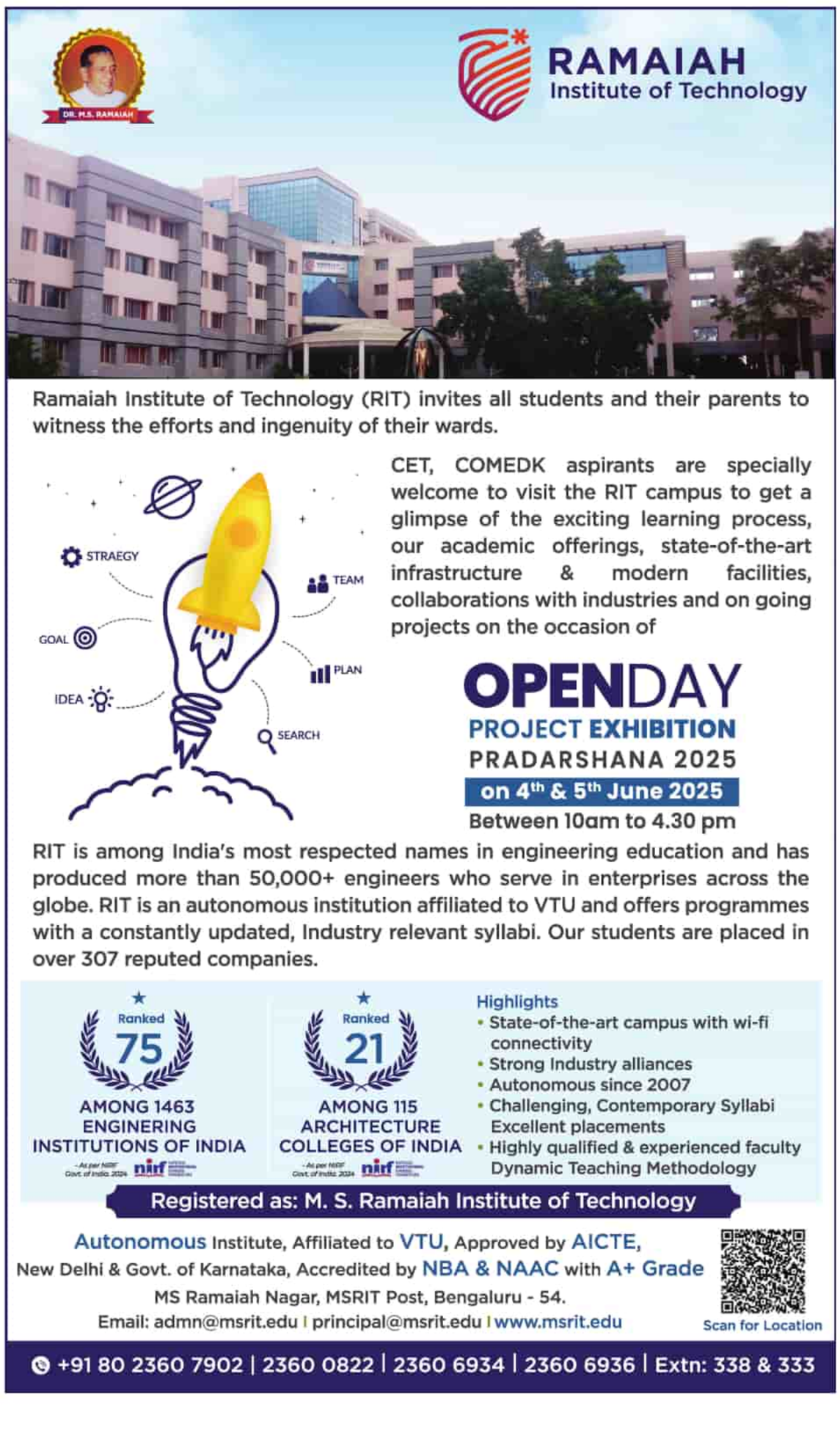
On Monday morning when R Shambukumar, Assistant Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, was informed about the theft of jackfruit from the premises, he said, "It has become a habit for police and security guards to take fruits from these premises without permission. I will look into the matter." He said that the security in-charge will be summoned, and action will be taken against the security guards who helped the Assistant Sub-Inspectors in the act. "I am of the opinion that police inspectors should not indulge in such activities," said Shambukumar.

During duty hours, traffic cops found busy trying to take home jackfruits

When contacted, one of the two Assistant Sub-Inspectors said that the two had entered the Visvesvaraya Tower premises when the security guards told them about a few injured birds that needed rescuing.

Commenting on the incident, Cubbon Park Police Inspector (Traffic) said that it was amusing. "I will enquire and take suitable action against the two Assistant Sub-Inspectors," the Police Inspector said.

When informed, the Assistant Commissioner of Police (Traffic – Central) demanded that the pictures of the Assistant Sub-Inspectors be sent to her. "I will look into the matter," the ACP (Traffic) said.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BWSSB unleashes blue force to curb water, sewage crimes

Special teams across 43 subdivisions will inspect illegal water and sewage connections, impose ₹5,000 fines, and curb losses from unaccounted Cauvery water through strict monitoring and penalties

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In a major crackdown on water theft and illegal sewage disposal, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) is planning to set up a special task force named 'Blue Force' to detect and prevent unauthorised use of Cauvery water and illegal diversion of sewage and rainwater into sanitary pipelines. As part of the initiative, each of the 43 BWSSB sub-divisions in the city will have one dedicated Blue Force team. Every team will consist of one ex-serviceman and three BWSSB staff members, who will conduct regular inspections at the sub-division level to identify unauthorised water connections and illegal sewage or rainwater disposal practices.

Blue Force to tackle 28% daily water loss through inspections, fines, and constant monitoring

Heavy losses due to water theft

The city receives 2,225 MLD (Million Litres per Day) of Cauvery water under various phases, including the fifth phase. Over 11 lakh legal connections currently exist. However, due to rampant water theft and illegal sewage connections, the board is incurring losses amounting to crores of rupees every month, officials revealed. A BWSSB official said, "The Blue Force will focus on surveying approximately 30,000 connections per sub-division. The team will investigate how many buildings have legal water supply, how many do not, and where sanitary and rainwater pipelines are connected. They will also look into tampering or bypassing of water meters in legal connections. If unauthorised sewage discharge into BWSSB sanitary pipelines is found, a fine will be imposed."

A fine of ₹5,000 will soon be levied on violators. An official order in this regard is expected within a few days

16,000+ illegal sewage connections found

So far, BWSSB has surveyed 3.16 lakh water connections. Of these, over 16,000 unauthorised sewage connections have been detected. Notices were issued to 11,877 properties, and 8,902 illegal connections have already been disconnected. According to BWSSB data, 28% of the Cauvery water supplied daily is unaccounted for — either lost due to leaks in old pipelines or stolen through unauthorised connections. Continuous monitoring by the Blue Force is expected to help minimise this gap and reduce losses.

Fine for diverting rainwater to sanitary sewers

An official added, "BWSSB is also cracking down on those diverting rainwater into sanitary pipelines, which leads to overflowing manholes and foul-smelling roads during rains. A fine of ₹5,000 will soon be levied on violators. An official order in this regard is expected within a few days. The operational cost of the Blue Force including staff salaries and fuel for inspection vehicles is estimated at ₹50 lakh per month, according to BWSSB officials."

GBA powers plastic-free future

In line with the 2025 World Environment Day theme of "Combating Plastic Pollution," the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) will host a landmark citywide celebration on June 6 to spotlight local climate action and civic leadership.

Organised by the GBA's Climate Action Cell, the event is set to bring together government agencies, resident welfare associations, schools, NGOs, corporates and citizens to drive collaborative climate solutions for a greener, more resilient Bengaluru.

One of the main highlights will be the Blue-Green Awards, which drew 175 entries from across sectors such as water conservation, waste management, biodiversity, urban planning, disaster response, air quality, and energy. Entries came from RWAs, civic bodies, start-ups, educational institutions and corporate entities. A 15-member expert jury selected 15 impactful projects for recognition.

The event will also see the official launch of Bengaluru's Climate Action Clubs—a youth-led initiative to integrate climate awareness and action in schools. Over 650 schools and PU colleges have registered so far. Each institution will form a club comprising one teacher and ten student leaders, who will carry out activities such as resource audits, tree mapping and local climate planning. A dedicated online portal will track progress, and the best-performing schools will be publicly recognised. A detailed activity handbook will also be released.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said a public exhibition showcasing Bengaluru's environmental initiatives will also take place on the day, inviting citizens to participate and learn.

Benagluru invests Rs 28 croce in climate resilience drive. **–BMB**

BM Trippin' Tales — Consumer Connect Initiative

Ancient Gudekote awaits recognition as tourism treasure trove

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A Land Etched in History, Awaiting Preservation and Promotion

Gudekote, a region rich with historical footprints—from the prehistoric era to the reign of the Mauryas, Cholas, and Palegars—remains a neglected gem. This land, once ruled by the Palegars and home to the brave woman warrior Onake Obavva, is steeped in heritage and echoes the grandeur of a bygone era. Yet, the question that looms large is: When will Gudekote be recognized as a tourist destination?

Despite being home to ancient cave paintings, a Chola-era temple complex, and a fortress from the Palegar period, Gudekote in Karnataka's Ballari district remains largely forgotten. Historians and locals alike worry that without urgent preservation, these priceless remnants of the past could be lost forever.

Nestled amidst rocky hills, Gudekote is dotted with prehistoric rock art, stone tools, and burial sites such as Kindikone Samadhi, hinting at the region's significance since the Stone Age. The influence of the Mauryan Empire under Emperor Ashoka also stretches into this land, making it a rich archaeological site.

One of the standout landmarks is the Choleshwara Temple, located within Gururaj's orchard, alongside the Panchalinga shrines and a stepped tank dating back to the Chola dynasty. These structures, though fragile, still reflect the grandeur of ancient temple architecture.

Cave art, stepped tanks, and shrines echo ancient Chola legacy

Gudekote's legacy is deeply entwined with the Palegars, local chieftains known for their defiance against imperial forces. The Gudekote Fort, strategically built with multiple watchtowers, battlements, granaries, and stepwells, stands as a silent witness to their rule. At the entrance of the village lies the Upparige Mahal, also known as Tangali Mahal, a symbol of royal architectural finesse. Surrounding the area are several monastic institutions such as the Hiremutt, Virakta Mutt, and the Veniveerappa Mutt, each holding historical and spiritual significance.

> **"Gudekote, with historical depth and natural beauty, deserves recognition. Conservation and sustainable tourism will uplift the region, protecting heritage**
>
> –Dr M Rajanna
> Principal of Gudekote College

Of particular note is a unique monolithic sculpture in a Shiva-Parvati temple, portraying Parvati seated on Shiva's thigh, a depiction rare not just in Karnataka but across South India. Yet, this remarkable artwork is crumbling, with no signs of preservation efforts. Locals report that many such temples have been damaged by treasure hunters or left to deteriorate due to lack of maintenance.

Gudekote is not just about history. During the monsoon, the semi-arid landscape transforms into a lush, green haven reminiscent of Malenadu.

HEALTH TIP: Gingerols in ginger help reduce inflammation and muscle soreness

Walnuts contain plant-based omega-3s and polyphenols that curb inflammation

HERE'S A THOUGHT...

Your smartphone is parasite, according to evolution

Head lice, fleas and tapeworms have been humanity's companions throughout our evolutionary history. Yet, the greatest parasite of the modern age is no blood-sucking invertebrate. It is sleek, glass-fronted and addictive by design. Its host? Every human on Earth with a wifi signal.

Far from being benign tools, smartphones parasitise our time, our attention and our personal information, all in the interests of technology companies and their advertisers.

In a new article in the Australasian Journal of Philosophy, we argue smartphones pose unique societal risks, which come into sharp focus when viewed through the lens of parasitism.

What, exactly, is a parasite?

Evolutionary biologists define a parasite as a species that benefits from a close relationship with another species – its host – while the host bears a cost.

The head louse, for example, is entirely dependent on our own species for its survival. They only eat human blood, and if they become dislodged from their host, they survive only briefly unless they are fortunate enough to fall onto another human scalp. In return for our blood, head lice give us nothing but a nasty itch; that's the cost.

Smartphones have radically changed our lives. From navigating cities to managing chronic health diseases such as diabetes, these pocket-sized bits of tech make our lives easier. So much so that most of us are rarely without them.

Yet, despite their benefits, many of us are hostage to our phones and slaves to the endless scroll, unable to fully disconnect. Phone users are paying the price with a lack of sleep, weaker offline relationships and mood disorders.

From mutualism to parasitism

Not all close species relationships are parasitic. Many organisms that live on or inside us are beneficial.

Consider the bacteria in the digestive tracts of animals. They can only survive and reproduce in the gut of their host species, feeding on nutrients passing through. But they provide benefits to the host, including improved immunity and better digestion. These win-win associations are called mutualisms.

The human-smartphone association began as a mutualism. The technology proved useful to humans for staying in touch, navigating via maps and finding useful information.

Philosophers have spoken of this not in terms of mutualism, but rather as phones being an extension of the human mind, like notebooks, maps and other tools.

From these benign origins, however, we argue the relationship has become parasitic. Such a change is not uncommon in nature; a mutualist can evolve to become a parasite, or vice versa.

Smartphones as parasites

As smartphones have become near-indispensable, some of the most popular apps they offer have come to serve the interests of the app-making companies and their advertisers more faithfully than those of their human users.

These apps are designed to nudge our behaviour to keep us scrolling, clicking on advertising and simmering in perpetual outrage.

The data on our scrolling behaviour is used to further that exploitation. Your phone only cares about your personal fitness goals or desire to spend more quality time with your kids to the extent that it uses this information to tailor itself to better capture your attention.

So, it can be useful to think of users and their phones as akin to hosts and their parasites – at least some of the time.

While this realisation is interesting in and of itself, the benefit of viewing smartphones through the evolutionary lens of parasitism comes into its own when considering where the relationship might head next – and how we could thwart these high-tech parasites.

Where policing comes in

On the Great Barrier Reef, bluestreak cleaner wrasse establish "cleaning stations" where larger fish allow the wrasse to feed on dead skin, loose scales and invertebrate parasites living in their gills. This relationship is a classic mutualism – the larger fish lose costly parasites and the cleaner wrasse get fed.

Sometimes the cleaner wrasse "cheat" and nip their hosts, tipping the scale from mutualism to parasitism. The fish being cleaned may punish offenders by chasing them away or withholding further visits. In this, the reef fish exhibit something evolutionary biologists see as important to keeping mutualisms in balance: policing.

Could we adequately police our exploitation by smartphones and restore a net-beneficial relationship?

Evolution shows that two things are key: an ability to detect exploitation when it occurs, and the capacity to respond (typically by withdrawing service to the parasite).

A difficult battle

In the case of the smartphone, we can't easily detect the exploitation. Tech companies that design the various features and algorithms to keep you picking up your phone aren't advertising this behaviour.

But even if you're aware of the exploitative nature of smartphone apps, responding is also more difficult than simply putting the phone down.

Many of us have become reliant on smartphones for everyday tasks. Rather than remembering facts, we offload the task to digital devices – for some people, this can change their cognition and memory.

We depend on having a camera for capturing life events or even just recording where we parked the car. This both enhances and limits our memory of events.

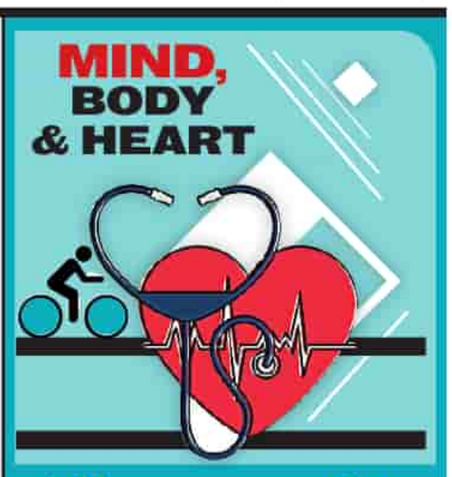
Governments and companies have only further cemented our dependence on our phones, by moving their service delivery online via mobile apps. Once we pick up the phone to access our bank accounts or access government services, we've lost the battle.

How then can users redress the imbalanced relationship with their phones, turning the parasitic relationship back to a mutualistic one?

Our analysis suggests individual choice can't reliably get users there. We are individually outgunned by the massive information advantage tech companies hold in the host-parasite arms race.

The Australian government's under-age social media ban is an example of the kind of collective action required to limit what these parasites can legally do. To win the battle, we will also need restrictions on app features known to be addictive, and on the collection and sale of our personal data.

(By Rachael L Brown, Australian National University and Rob Brooks, UNSW Sydney, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Help for back pain

Mind & body therapies

Combining physical and psychological therapies -- exercise, along with cognitive behavioural therapy and mindfulness -- may have more long-term effects in treating lower back pain, a study has found. Researchers from Macquarie University, Australia, reviewed results from 75 clinical trials, involving around 15,400 participants, that looked at the effects of 20 non-surgical treatments of chronic low back pain -- massage, manipulation, pain education and injections -- over a year or more.

Long-term benefits

Published in The Lancet Rheumatology journal, the findings show that "cognitive behavioural therapy, mindfulness, exercise, and multidisciplinary care could produce the long-term benefits required to reduce the global burden due to non-specific chronic low back pain". "However, the effects are mostly small, and the strength of evidence is relatively uncertain," the authors wrote.

Musculoskeletal disorders

Cases of musculoskeletal disorders -- which include over 150 conditions affecting joints, muscles, bones, ligaments, tendons, and the spine -- could cross a billion globally by 2050, a study published in The Lancet Rheumatology journal in 2023 has estimated. In India, a 2022 study estimated that about 66 per cent could be living with the condition. The analysis is published in 'WORK: A Journal of Prevention, Assessment and Rehabilitation'.

Different types of treatments

"The positive news is that we now know there are a few different types of treatments that have some evidence of effect over the longer term," lead author Dr Hazel Jenkins, a chiropractic clinician and senior lecturer in the department of chiropractic, Macquarie University, said. "The individual treatments that stood out for reducing pain and disability, were psychological treatments such as CBT (cognitive behavioural therapy) and mindfulness, and physical treatments like exercise and manipulation," Jenkins said. **PTI**

Film-makers approach HC requesting release of Thug Life

KFCC has issued statements that film screening won't be allowed K'taka theatres after row over Kamal Haasan's statements

A legal petition has been submitted to the High Court requesting intervention to stop Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce and other respondents from hindering the release of 'Thug Life', starring Kamal Haasan, in all languages across Karnataka. The film's release is scheduled for June 5.

Raajkamal Films International, the production company, argues that the Film Chamber's actions violate their constitutional rights under Article 19 (1) (g). Despite obtaining necessary certification under the Cinematograph Act, 1952, the film faces potential prohibition in Karnataka.

The petition challenges the Film Chamber's ban on 'Thug Life' in Karnataka, which was announced through media statements, suggesting possible forced restrictions on cinema exhibitors within the state.

The petition also highlights the state authorities' failure to implement security measures for the peaceful distribution and screening of the film in Karnataka.

The film is described as an artistic creation developed over several years, representing the second collaboration between Indian cinema luminaries Kamal Haasan and Mani Ratnam since their 1987 film 'Nayagan'. Cinema enthusiasts across India, including Karnataka, have been anticipating this release.

The KFCC's decision reportedly stems from a misinterpreted statement by Kamal Haasan at the film's audio launch in Chennai, where he allegedly said 'Kannada was born out of Tamil'. Haasan later explained that his comments were meant to showcase the brotherhood between Tamilians and Kannadigas.

The petition maintains that the respondents' proclaimed ban on 'Thug Life' in Karnataka is unlawful and beyond their authority.

The petitioners seek directions for appropriate security measures for the film's team, exhibitors, theatre owners, and audiences to ensure uninterrupted screenings from the release date of June 5 onwards.

Rana George can access his property in Wildlife Sanctuary

The High Court granted approval on Monday to a petition submitted by Rana George, the son of State Energy Minister KJ George, requesting full access to his private property situated within the Nugu Wildlife Sanctuary.

Justice M Ngaprasanna, presiding as a single judge, stated, "The writ petition is allowed, the order dated March 01, 2024, is quashed. Mandamus issued to authorities to provide unhindered access to the petitioner to access his property in accordance with law. It is made clear that the petitioner while using the property shall not damage physically or otherwise any flora or fauna in the wildlife sanctuary."

The petitioner sought judicial intervention to nullify the directive issued on March 01, 2024, by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, which limited his access to the forest road within the Nugu wildlife sanctuary. The authorities had imposed restrictions on property access between 6 pm and 6 am daily, citing environmental protection.

The petition requested the respondent authorities to permit unrestricted access to his property via the forest road within the sanctuary. The petitioner established his complete ownership of properties in Shambugowdanahalli and Lakkasoge villages of Mysuru, with the forest road being the sole access route.

BMB

No action taken on traders' complaints

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

members during raids. Traders say that despite the recent order outlining procedural steps for police to ensure transparency and safeguard their rights, little has changed on the ground.

'Search and seizure rules ignored'

As per procedure, police officers are required to issue a formal search notice before entering any jewellery shop or moneylender's premises to recover stolen gold based on information from the accused. This search must be conducted in the presence of independent and respectable witnesses, with a detailed list of seized items prepared and signed by the witnesses before any seizure or statement recording can begin. Despite these safeguards, traders say these rules are routinely ignored.

TA Sharvana, Member of the Legislative Council, and President of the Karnataka Jewellery Shop Association, said the problem goes beyond isolated incidents. "One and a half kilograms of gold was stolen from my business. The Halasuru Gate police recovered the gold from Rajasthan but only showed 700 grams in court. Of that, only 40% was real gold," he told BM.

He added that repeated complaints and letters to the City Police Commissioner and DCP (West) have not resulted in any action. "And this is not just my case, several other traders are facing similar issues," he said, demanding that the case be transferred to the Central Crime Branch (CCB) for an impartial probe.

Further, Section 105 of the Indian Civil Security Code (ICSC) requires the entire process, from entry to seizure, to be audio and video recorded and submitted to the court. CCTV surveillance is mandatory for all registered jewellery shops and gold traders. Officials are required to inspect shops to ensure cameras are installed and footage is preserved for at least 90 days.

While police say these measures aim to ensure transparency and accountability, traders argue that non-compliance has eroded trust. The department has proposed quarterly meetings with jewellery associations to address grievances, but shop owners say that unless rules are properly enforced, such efforts won't make much of a difference.

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I Joyce Jayasheelan, W/o, Judah Jayaseelan, Residing At, no 17&18, melody Cottage, near Ramareddy House, doddanagamangala, electronic City, Bengaluru 560100, have changed my name to Joyce Jayaseelan for all purposes.

I, Syed Ahamed, (old name) S/o Moudeensab Rajesab Naswale, r/o No.#25/A, 2nd floor, Krishnanada Nagar Nandini Layout Bengaluru, have changed my name to Sayed Ahamed Naswale (new name) for all purposes.

I, Mohammed Aboobacker Luqmaan, S/OVNazirAhmed, resident of Mangalore, DakshinaKannada575001, have changed my name to Raam Jay Shetty.

I Romy Saurav W/O, Kumar Saurav R/o 1207, Block 1, Confident Leo, Sarjapur Road, Bangalore have changed my name to Romy.

I, Vishal Jagdish Chaudhary, S/o. Jagdish Chaudhary, R/o. 307, Classic Comforts, Bilekahalli, Blr-560076, have changed my name to VISHAL CHAUDHARY vide affidavit Dtd: 31/05/25 before Notary M. Rajendra, Blr.

I PREMALATHA SUDHAKAR, W/o. Sudhakar Kuthyar, resident of House No.18, Flat No.202, 28th Cross, Near Fast Surgical Showroom, Jayanagar 7th Block, BSK 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560070, state that my name has been mentioned in Passport as PREMALATHA and shall be changed to PREMALATHA SUDHAKAR as per my Aadhar Card and PAN Card.

I Aamir Mohmed Modan S/O, Mohmed Modan R/o B405, Shakthi Tranquilis, Kannamangala Road, Seegehalli, Bengaluru -560067 have changed my name to Aamir Modan

I MITHIL MANDANNA S/O, Machaiah K P R/o No 1, 1st Main, 1st Block, BEL Layout, Vidyaranypaura, Bangalore 560097 have changed my name to MITHIL MANDANNA K M for all purposes.

I Sneha Miriam John D/O, Biju Jacob John R/o #402, Soven Apartments, 118 Shakti Nagar, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore 560043 have changed my name to Sneha Miriam Miranda.

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Mooorhens' nesting ground wiped out

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Residents Welfare Association. In a written complaint given to the Commissioner of Lakes, BBMP, on Monday, citizens requested the authorities to retain the last remaining natural mudbank of the Lake and not cover it with concrete or gabion walls as part of the current walkway development. They say that while they are not opposing the construction of the walkway, this must not come at the cost of ecological destruction.

Walkers say the small patch of mudbank is the last soft edge of the lake — and it is ecologically irreplaceable.

Home to birds

The complaint underlines that birds such as cormorants, purple moorhens, herons, and many others depend on muddy, shallow edges to feed, nest, and rest. Insects, amphibians, and small reptiles also use these moist zones for survival. These species cannot adapt to vertical, stone-reinforced edges like gabion walls.

"Mudbanks naturally filter runoff, stabilise shorelines, and allow for groundwater recharge. Last year, during the drought, water levels in Sankey Tank fell to alarming lows. One reason is the increased concretisation, which has eliminated the lake's natural

ability to retain and slowly release water. While gabion walls may help with erosion in certain sections, converting 100% of the lake's edge into hardened surfaces is ecologically disastrous. Experts recommend keeping at least 20–30% of any lake edge natural and porous. Sankey Tank has already lost most of its soft shoreline — this final patch must be preserved," noted the written complaint submitted by the two organisations.

When BM approached BBMP's Lake Department, officials informed us that the step is being taken to prevent the lake area from encroachment. The project will also meet the long-pending demand of lake walkers to complete the walk path around the lake and connect the path towards Sadashivnagar to Malleswaram.

Officials said that the survey of the lake was recently done by the Assistant Director of Land Records. The work has been taken up based on the results of the survey.

"ADLR recently completed the survey of the lake, which had long been pending. Based on the survey results, we are constructing a bund to connect the intermittent walk path around the lake owing to public demand. Once the bund will be constructed, we will put up a fence even on the north side of the lake," said a senior official from the Lake Department.

Locals complain that other pressing issues regarding the lake's health have been neglected so far. A considerable amount of sewage is still entering the lake, and the public toilet, which has been under construction for the last two years, is yet to be completed, they said.

Sneaky uninvited guest scoots with valuables during wedding

Jewellery worth ₹25 lakh stolen from bridal suite during ceremony

CRIME FILES

Jewellery and wedding gifts worth 25 lakh were stolen from the bridal suite of Saptapadi Kalyana Mantapa on West of Chord Road, Rajajinagar, prompting a theft case to be registered at Magadi Road Police Station.

According to the complaint filed by L Shivashankar, a resident of Gavipura, the theft occurred between the evening of May 29 and the morning of May 30, during his daughter's wedding. The reception took place on May 29, where guests and relatives presented jewellery, cash, and other gifts. These were stored in a suitcase in the bride's room that night.

The following morning, while the bride left for the muhurta ceremony after placing the remaining jewellery in the same room, an unidentified person allegedly used a fake key to enter and steal the suitcase containing gold ornaments, including earrings, a chain, and a large sum of cash.

The theft came to light after the wedding rituals and dinner when the family returned to the room and found the suitcase missing. A subsequent review of CCTV footage by the hall manager revealed visuals of an unknown person entering and leaving the premises.

Magadi Road Police have launched an investigation and are working to identify and trace the suspect captured on camera.

BJP leader's house robbed

A couple entrusted with the security of a BJP leader's house, allegedly looted gold ornaments weighing 2 kg, ₹10 lakh in cash, and a licenced pistol before fleeing. The accused, Raj and Deepa, who are originally from Nepal, had been working as domestic help and house guards at the residence of Ramesh Babu, a real estate businessman and BJP member, in Shastrinagar.

The crime took place on May 27, when Ramesh Babu and his family were away in Tirupati for a pilgrimage to the Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple. Taking advantage of their absence, the couple reportedly turned off the power supply, disabled the CCTV system, and executed the robbery with the help of a few accomplices.

The theft was discovered when Ramesh Babu's son, Mahesh, returned from a trip. A case has been registered at the HAL Police Station, and a manhunt is underway to trace the absconding couple. CCTV footage from nearby areas is being reviewed as part of the ongoing investigation.

Auto driver held for cutting birthday cake with a sword

The Gauribidanur police on Sunday arrested a 28-year-old autorickshaw driver for using a sword to cut his birthday cake during a celebration in his village.

The accused, Anil Kumar from Lagumenahalli, was seen cutting a cake with a sword in the presence of his friends on Saturday. One of them filmed the act and posted it on social media, where the video quickly went viral and drew criticism.

Acting on the video, police registered a suo motu case and tracked down Anil Kumar. He was booked for public nuisance and under the Arms Act. The sword was seized for investigation.

His statement was recorded and he was released on station bail with certain conditions. —BMB

IN BRIEF

4-year-old boy drowns in open tank

A four-year-old boy drowned in an open tank in Lagumenahalli, while his parents were harvesting maize on a farmhouse on Sunday.

The deceased has been identified as Arpith Reddy, son of Narasimhamurthy and Bhayamma. According to police, the couple, who had only one child, had taken Arpith along with them to the field. While they were engaged in work, the boy is said to have wandered off while playing and accidentally slipped into a rainwater-filled tank on the premises.

It was only about an hour later that the parents noticed Arpith was missing. After searching the area, they found his body in the tank.

The couple had been married for 14 years, and Arpith was their first child. Gudibande police have registered a case of unnatural death and are awaiting the post-mortem report to proceed with further investigation. —BMB

Woman falls at auto driver's feet to apologise

The woman involved in a heated road altercation near Centro Mall in Bellandur with an autorickshaw driver issued a public apology and also released a video of her falling on the driver's feet to apologise.

The incident occurred around 3 pm, when Pankhuri Mishra and her husband, were riding a two-wheeler. According to the police, the couple allegedly brushed against the autorickshaw driven by Lokesh (33) while merging lanes. A verbal argument ensued, during which Mishra repeatedly hit Lokesh with her slipper as he recorded the incident on his phone.

The video quickly went viral on social media, triggering outrage and drawing attention from men's rights groups. Lokesh later filed a complaint at Bellandur police station, following which an FIR was registered against Mishra for assault.

Mishra, accompanied by her husband, appeared before the police on Sunday and issued a public apology. A video shows the woman falling at Lokesh's feet and expressing regret, claiming she panicked as she is pregnant and felt unsafe when the auto moved close to their vehicle. Police confirmed that her statement has been recorded and further investigation is underway. Mishra has been released. —BMB

K'taka govt felicitates Booker Prize winners Banu Mushtaq, Deepa Bhasthi

The Karnataka government felicitated the prestigious International Booker Prize for 2025 winner, writer and activist Banu Mushtaq and translator Deepa Bhasthi on Monday. Banu Mushtaq's translated book 'Heart Lamp' won the prestigious Booker Prize recently.

The official felicitation programme was organised by the Department of Kannada and Culture at the Banquet Hall to honour Banu Mushtaq and Deepa Bhasthi.

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh each for Banu Mushtaq and Deepa Bhasthi for bringing recognition to Kannada through their stories and translations.

He also assured that the Karnataka government would extend support for translating and publishing Banu Mushtaq's stories in English.

Speaking on the occasion Chief Minister Siddaramaiah stated, "By bringing the Booker award to our language, Banu Mushtaq has elevated the prestige of Kannada. This is a matter of pride for the entire Kannada world."

"Literature has the power to bind society together. It should serve to unite people, not divide them," said the Congress leader.

"Banu Mushtaq's identity as a journalist, writer, lawyer, and activist reflects the strength of her writing," CM Siddaramaiah observed.

"Writing for 'Lankesh Patrike' while also practicing law in defense of the underprivileged, and winning honours including the Rajyotsava Award (the second-highest civilian honour conferred by the Karnataka government), these accomplishments are a testament to the social conscience inherent in Banu Mushtaq's work," he added.

"Banu's fearless progressive spirit stands as a voice for Muslim women, writing against orthodoxy and advocating humanistic values through literature," CM Siddaramaiah said.

Referring to ancient literary figures, he said: "Kavirajamarga calls for a sympathetic view of other faiths and ideas. Adikavi Pampa proclaimed the unity of mankind. Basavanna propagated brotherhood, and Akka Mahadevi, the voice of womanhood, echoed the same. In continuing the ideals of such luminaries, Banu Mushtaq has carried the torch forward."

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, addressing the gathering, stated that there was no need for a lengthy speech, as Banu Mushtaq and Deepa Bhasthi have already become ambassadors of the Kannada language at the international level. By winning the Booker Prize, they have brought global recognition to Kannada.

"I have also served as the Minister for Kannada and Culture. According to the information available to me, there are 780 languages and 19,500 dialects in the country. Globally, there are about 78,000 languages. We refer to the language of the land as mother tongue, not father tongue. We have given the position of a mother to language," he said.

"My heartfelt congratulations to both the ladies who have brought laurels to the Kannada language," he said. —IANS

ರಿಶ್ತೆ ೬.೦ ನೆನಪಿನೊಂದಿಗೆ – ಸಲೀಲ್ ಚೌಧುರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಆರ್ ಡಿ ಬರ್ಮನ್
TANISHQ
A TATA PRODUCT
Rishtey
Remembering 6.0
Salil Chowdhury 1925 - 1995
& R D Burman 1939 - 1994
BEETI HUI KUCH YAADEIN
Priyanka Mitra
Samanvitha Sharma
Shruti Bhide
Shurjo Bhattacharya
Kinjal Chatterjee
Govind Kurnool
Saxophone by Raj Sodha
Rhythm by Anupam Ghatak
Music Arranged by Srinivas Achar
in association with QMINDS
Story Teller : Rashmi Shetty
Story Spotter : Gaurav Sharma
6.00pm Sat. 7th June 2025, Chowdiah Memorial Hall , Bengaluru
Tickets: Rs 2360, 2065, 1770, 1180, 767 & 499
(GST included wherever applicable)
Tickets Booking at : 984 544 7130
Official Hospitality Partner Holiday Inn
Powered by Indus business academy
Print Partner SPECTACULAR MMT
Online Ticketing Partner bookmyshow
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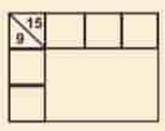
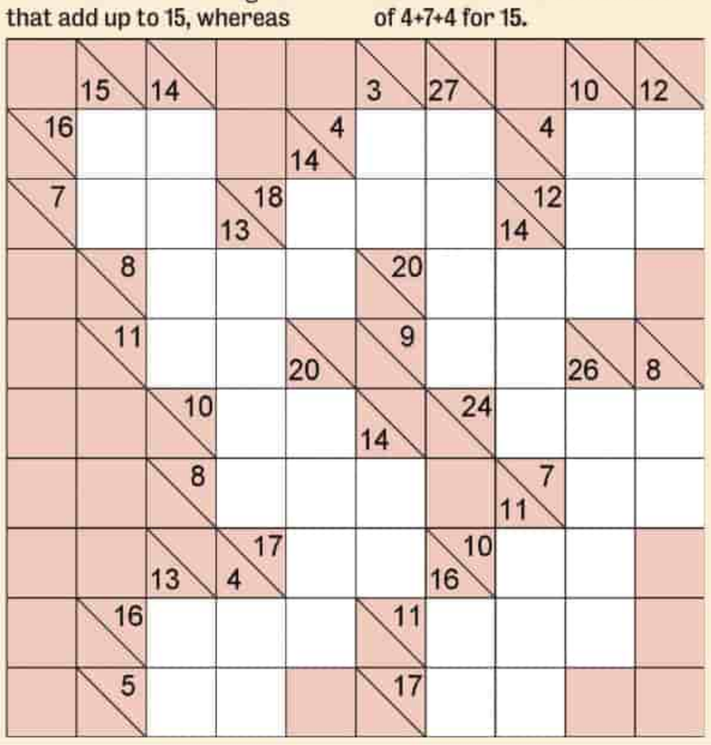
Kakuro

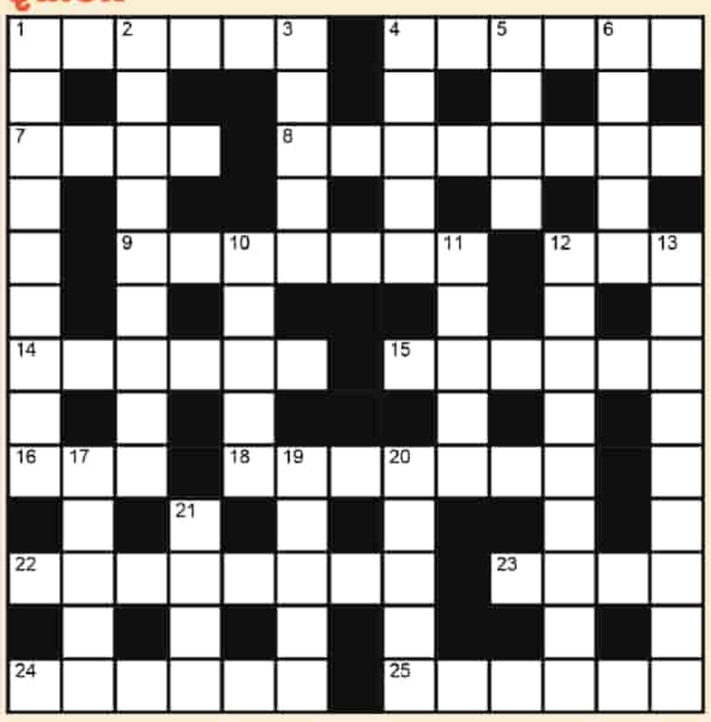
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 King of the Huns (6)
4 The office of the head of a monastery (6)
7 Birthday candle holder (4)
8 Drawings and illustrations (8)
9 Dip in liquid (7)
12 U.S. Govt. Uncle ___ (3)
14 Royal city in Karnataka (6)
15 Sea channel (6)
16 Buck's mate (3)
18 American university (7)
22 Abnormal (8)
23 Place of duty (4)
24 Ancient enemy of Athens (6)
25 ___ on : began to be understood by? (6)

DOWN

1 Very famous (9)
2 Disagree (4,5)
3 To discuss or debate (5)
4 Accumulate (5)
5 Thailand money (4)
6 Chocolate drink (5)
10 Swampland (5)
11 Additional (5)
12 Withdraw from a position or candidacy? (5,4)
13 Allayed, alleviated or reduced (9)
17 Immediately available–like running water? (2,3)
19 Ghanaian capital (5)
20 Legally acceptable (5)
21 Goad a horse (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: J EQUALS G

QKUKH TKY YOK RKZH LR IYH-CGCQJ LAY JKY CQ PLAH EZP.

Linemaro

I'll put a tear drop in the ocean. When you find it is when I'll stop loving you

Mindchow

We never know the love of the parent until we become parents ourselves

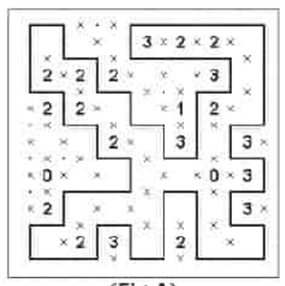
Joke of the day

Life would be infinitely happier if we could be born at the age of 80 and gradually approach 18

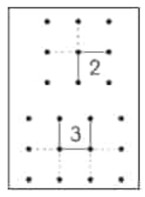
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

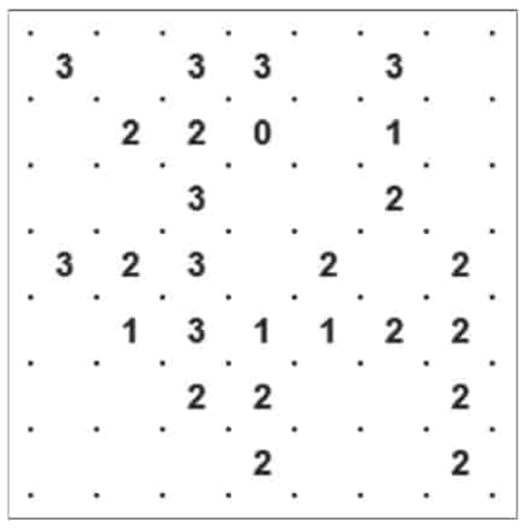


(Fig B) Not Allowed

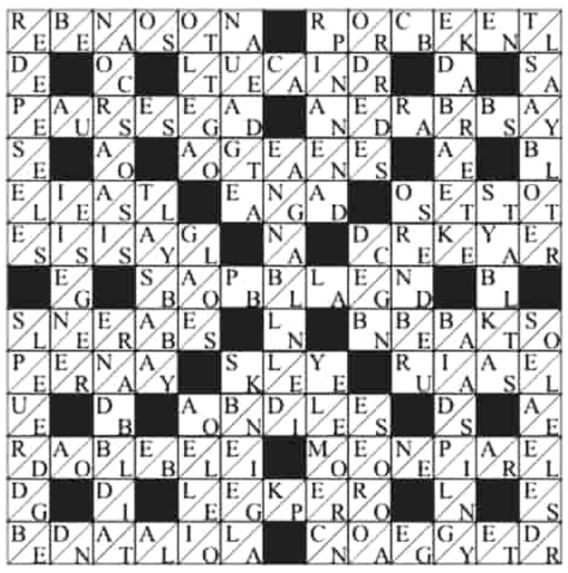
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



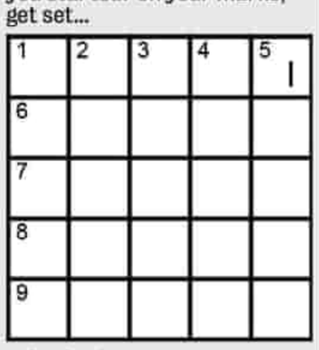
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

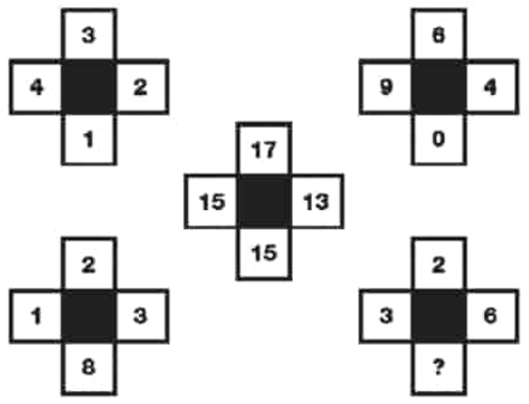
1 Sails; 6 Me den; 7 V tail; 8 Ree Nu; 9 Poled

DOWN

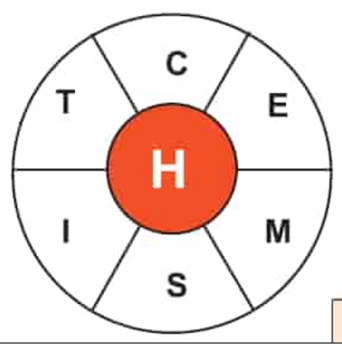
1 LL Eve; 2 Naomi; 3 Upset; 4 Nears; 5 Le did

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; 08 Good; 10 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

			2		8			
2		1				7		8
		9		1		2		
9	1			7			8	5
	4						6	
5	2			3			7	9
		4		8		6		
7		3				5		4
			3		1			

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 22

3 5 5 9

Medium = 5

2 4 6 7

Hard = 15

3 6 6 9

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

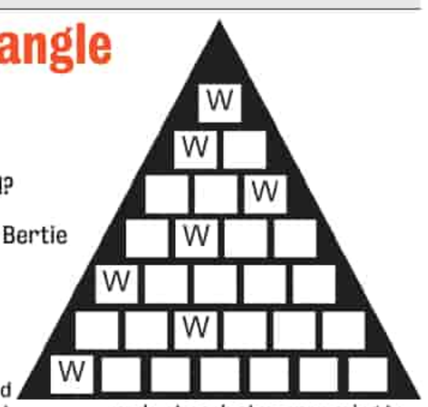
Differences: 1. Leg is moved. 2. Hand is showing. 3. Glasses are different. 4. Label is missing. 5. Cap is larger. 6. Writing is added on window.

Riddler

A delivery truck from the post office is sent to the airport to meet a cargo plane. The plane lands ahead of schedule, and its contents are brought toward the post office by a bicycle. After a half hour, the bicycle meets the truck and the mail is transferred. The truck returns from the post office 20 minutes early. How early did the plane arrive?

Alpha triangle

1 Watt, abbr.
2 You and I
3 Do needlework
4 Is obliged
5 Successor to bad?
6 Tall structures
7 P G Wodehouse's Bertie



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

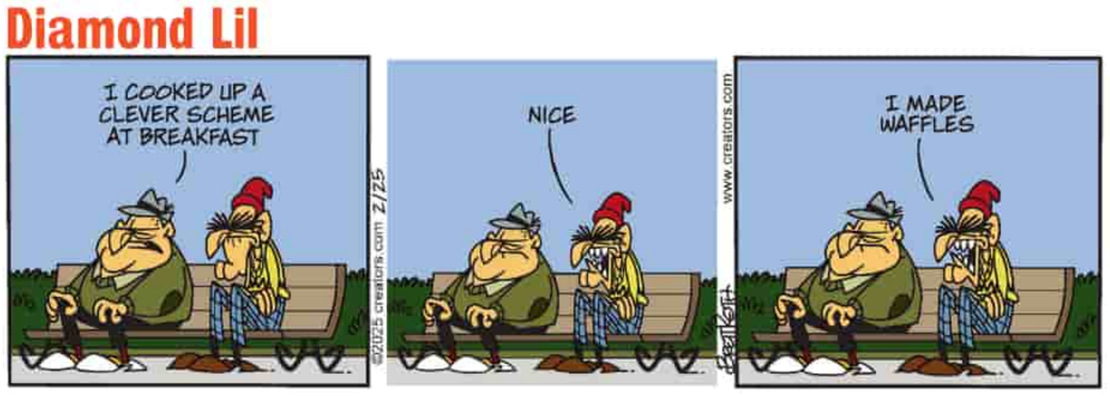
COMICS

Popeye

Bizarrotrip

Wayno & Piraro 2-25-25
According to your resume, you haven't worked a day in your life.
Dist. by King Features
BIZARRO.COM
©2025 BIZARRO STUDIOS

Diamond Lil



Hart of the city

I'M ALREADY OUT OF GUM! I JUST GOT THIS!
YOU GOTTA START TELLING PEOPLE YOU ONLY HAVE ONE PIECE LEFT, REGARDLESS OF HOW MANY YOU ACTUALLY HAVE.
SO LIE??
IT'S A HARMLESS LIE. EVERYONE LIES ABOUT HOW MUCH GUM THEY HAVE. KINDA LIKE MONEY!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
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Crankshaft

THIS IS CURIOUS... THE BUS DRIVER SHORTAGE IS CAUSING BUSES TO RUN LATER INTO THE EVENING...
ON EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK EXCEPT THURSDAY...
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT OUR THURSDAY NIGHT BOWLING LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP IS ONLY A FEW WEEKS AWAY!
KARGO Lanes
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
2-25

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, your communication skills may help you resolve many ongoing issues. You might consider enrolling in an advanced course to boost your career prospects. Romantic moments are likely for couples. You'll be able to manage rivals effectively, and plans related to a home or vehicle loan could be initiated.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
You may be occupied with matters related to your child's education, possibly involving travel. Career-wise, you could consider changing your current job or pursuing higher education for future growth. Good news related to competitive exams may arrive. Love life remains pleasant and fulfilling.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
A change in your role or location might be on the cards today. Be extra cautious when signing any important documents. Pay attention to your parents' health. Avoid investments in risky assets for now, as they may lead to losses. It's wise to delay major financial decisions.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Blessed by the Moon, you'll feel energetic and decisive, especially in business matters. Colleagues may help you complete projects ahead of schedule, enhancing workplace trust. Any existing disputes with siblings may now be resolved. Employees might receive recognition or promotions.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, managing your directness in communication will help preserve harmony in your relationships. You might renovate your home or buy decorative items. Attending social events could expand your network. Investment in a family business is also likely.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Thanks to a restful sleep and the Moon's positive influence, you'll feel energised and confident. Your productivity may improve, and lingering health issues could be resolved. Helping someone in need may elevate your respect and reputation in your community.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today might feel emotionally draining, with possible health dips affecting your productivity. Delays in work could lead to frustration or irritability. Avoid taking risks like adventure travel or speeding. Relationships may face tension, and some couples could experience separation.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
A major work order or opportunity could boost your business today. With support from influential people, you may benefit professionally and even earn a promotion. Job seekers may find a good opportunity. Renovation plans for home or office may improve your image. Romantic moments with your partner are likely.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Work demands may exhaust you mentally. You might miss or arrive late to family gatherings, affecting domestic harmony. However, your performance at work may be acknowledged by your superiors, possibly paving the way for a promotion.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
With the blessings of elders, recent struggles may start to ease. Destiny appears to favor you—stalled projects may resume, and previously stuck money might be recovered. A spiritual trip with family may be on your mind, bringing inner peace. You might also get a chance to travel abroad or long-distance.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
The influence of a negative Moon could cause mood swings and impulsiveness. Sudden disruptions may shake your daily routine. Financially, gains could turn into losses, so it's best to postpone investments. You're likely entering a phase of self-reflection that may lead to deeper insights into life.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
You're under positive lunar influence today. Stuck funds may finally come through, improving business liquidity. You might take the lead on key projects at work and could receive promotions or incentives. Your relationship with your spouse is likely to strengthen, creating a harmonious domestic atmosphere.

KIDZONE

Aaira Ahmed, Narayana e-Techno School

Yatharth A, Police Public School

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
40+20/2 = 40+10 = 50

RIDDLER The delivery truck arrived back 20 minutes early, so it would have taken 20 minutes to go from where it met the bicycle to get to the airport and back. Therefore, the bicycle and truck met when the truck was 10 minutes from the airport. Adding those 10 minutes to the 30 minutes the truck had already driven to meet the car means the plane arrived 40 minutes ahead of schedule.

QUOTE UNCODE
Never let the fear of striking out get in your way.

FAST FIVE

L	A	S	S	I
E	M	E	N	D
V	I	T	A	L
E	N	U	R	E
L	O	P	E	D

STRIKE OUT

E	N	T	A	I	L	■	N	A	G	G	E	D		
G	I	■	L	E	F	E	R	■	N	■	E			
R	A	B	B	L	E	■	M	E	N	I	A	L		
U	■	B	■	A	N	D	E	S	■	D	■	A		
P	R	A	Y	■	K	E	Y	■	R	I	S	E		
S	E	R	B	S	■	L	■	B	E	A	K	S		
■	G	■	B	A	B	B	L	E	D	■	L	■		
S	I	S	A	L	■	A	■	D	R	E	A	R		
L	E	S	T	■	E	N	D	■	O	T	T	O		
E	■	O	■	O	G	E	E	S	■	A	■	L		
P	U	R	E	E	D	■	N	E	A	R	B	Y		
E	■	C	■	L	U	C	I	D	■	A	■	A		
R	E	A	S	O	N	■	P	O	C	K	E	T		

QUICK

S	P	A	R	T	A	■	D	A	W	N	E	D		
A	■	U	■	R	■	I	■	W	■	E				
A	T	Y	P	I	C	A	L	■	P	O	S	T		
N	■	S	■	C	■	A	■	D	■	A				
D	O	E	■	H	A	R	V	A	R	D	■	G		
E	■	U	■	S	■	R	■	N	■	I				
M	Y	S	O	R	E	■	S	T	R	A	I	T		
I	■	S	■	A	■	X	■	T	■	I				
A	I	M	M	E	R	S	E	■	S	A	M			
L	■	E	■	U	■	S	■	O	■					
C	A	K	E	■	G	R	A	P	H	I	C	S		
C	■	A	■	R	■	M	■	A	■	O	■			
A	T	T	I	L	A	■	A	B	A	C	K	Y		

MENSA PUZZLE
6. Take values in corresponding positions of the outer 4 shapes, and put the results in the central shape, rotating the position of this result by 1/4 turn each time.

BULL'S EYE
CHEMIST, chest, chime, etch, ethic, heist, itch, mesh, smith, them

SUDOKU

6	5	2	3	4	1	8	9	7
7	8	3	6	2	9	5	1	4
1	9	4	5	8	7	6	2	3
5	2	8	1	3	6	4	7	9
3	4	7	8	9	5	1	6	2
9	1	6	4	7	2	3	8	5
8	3	9	7	1	4	2	5	6
2	6	1	9	5	3	7	4	8
4	7	5	2	6	8	9	3	1

ALPHA TRIANGLE
W, We, Sew, Sews, Owes, Worse, Towers, Wooster.

GO FIGURE
5 + 9 + 3 + 5 = 22
Medium
2 + 4 – 7 + 6 = 5
Hard
3 x 6 + 6 – 9 = 15

LOOP

KAKURO

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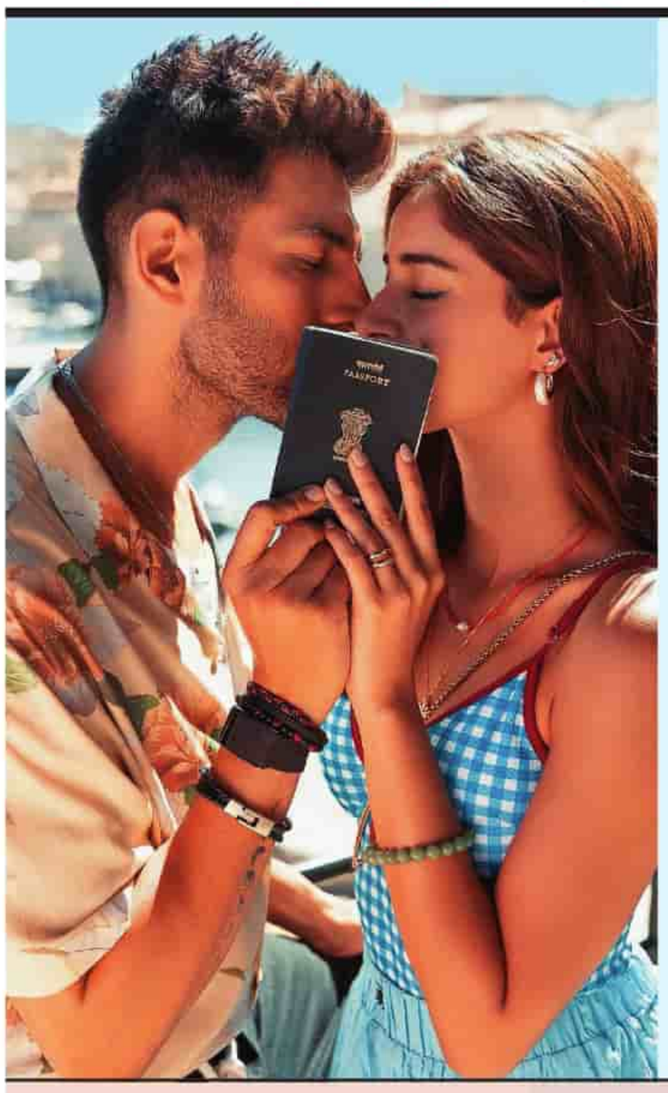
Congratulations are in order

Oscar-nominated actress Saoirse Ronan is expecting her first child with husband Jack Lowden. The actress was photographed with a visible baby bump while walking with her husband



Gorgeous duo

Bollywood actors Kartik Aaryan and Ananya Panday are set to rekindle their fiery chemistry on-screen in the upcoming romantic comedy Tu Meri Main Tera, Main Tera Tu Meri. Directed by Sameer Vidwans, the film's extensive schedule kicked off in Croatia, where the team is expected to continue shooting for the next two weeks, filming outdoor sequences, including some song shoots.

The actor and his leading lady were spotted out and about, enjoying their time on the picturesque sets, posing for photos amidst the sun and sunny shores. While Ananya stunned in flirty summer outfits, Kartik showed off his abs in button-down shirts.

According to a report on Mid-Day, the film's cast and crew has been shooting across different parts of Croatia, including locations in Vis. "The shoot on the island was a bit tricky as a group kept clicking Kartik and Ananya's pictures despite being told not to." The report further adds that security measures have been put into place to ensure that the photos from the shoot don't make their way online.

Reacting to the photos of the stars, fans said, "Still staring at this photo cuz THEY LOOK SO DAMN GORGEOUS TOGETHER"

Another quipped, "Reminding myself: THIS IS NOT REAL LIFE." Still another added, "Sexy people spotted the face cards & styling are so damn on point!"

The team hopes to wrap up the Croatia leg of the shoot by mid-June and move back to Mumbai to shoot some of the emotional scenes, along with other remaining portions of the film. The makers are eyeing a July-end wrap for the project. This will give the team enough time to work on the post-production until the Valentine's release.

—ETimes

Grateful for memories made on set

Bollywood actress Sunny Leone has officially wrapped up shooting for her upcoming bilingual South film.

Expressing heartfelt gratitude, the actress shared that she's thankful for every moment and memory created on set, marking the end of an exciting chapter in her career. Taking to Instagram, the 'Jism 2' actress shared a couple of photos from the celebration and wrote, "So happy to wrap my next bilingual South film with a full heart—grateful for every moment and memory made on set..."

In the images, Sunny is seen cutting a cake along with the cast and crew of the film. She also posed for group photos. The text on the cake read, "WM movies. Production No. 2 It's a wrap." Sunny is also all set to make her debut in Hollywood.

—IANS

A FINE BALANCE

Kareena reveals she is not chasing roles anymore, but takes her time choosing the right ones

Kareena Kapoor Khan is completing 25 years in the industry and the actress has come a long way ever since her debut film 'Refugee'. In a recent interview, Kareena has opened up on how she has stopped chasing things in her career now and now there is more to her life than just her work.

Kareena said in a chat with Nod magazine, "I've had the privilege of doing so many different kinds of cinema, so many roles. And even now, I don't feel like it's enough. I never want to feel like I've done everything." Thus, the actress prefers quality over quantity.

"It's not about quantity anymore. It's about choosing the right roles, ones that challenge me and excite me. I want to preserve my energy, my talent, myself," she added. She's happy about not chasing anymore. Kareena said, "I'm happy I'm not chasing anymore. I see younger actors running from one thing to the next, and I just think: I'm glad I'm past that."

She further added how they bond as a family while cooking and she eats her dinner at 6pm and goes to bed by 9.30 pm.

The 'Omkara' actress added, "We love cooking together as a family. Saif, the kids, me—we're all in the kitchen..."

She said she doesn't feel like leaving her kids alone. "I want to be able to choose—because I'd rather sit at home with my husband and watch a show or have a glass of wine. That's one of the biggest changes I have gone through, personally. It is up to me to strike a work-life balance."

—ETimes

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Kannappa arrives

Moviegoers are familiar with the films Bedara Kannappa of 1954 and Shiva Mecchida Kannappa of 1988. Now, Kannappa, a multilingual movie with similar content, is set to arrive in theatres on June 27.

Dr Shiva Rajkumar unveiled one of the songs of the movie at a hotel in the city. "I was supposed to act in the movie but I could not due to call sheets problems. I wish to get a chance to act in a movie with Manchu Vishnu in the future. Dr Mohan Babu is like our family member. I will act in the movie with love if Dr Mohan Babu asks me," said Dr Shiva Rajkumar.

Dr Mohan Babu has bankrolled the movie. Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar plays Shiva while Kajal Agarwal plays Parvathi in the movie.

On the occasion, Rockline Venkatesh said that Dr Rajkumar's Bedara Kannappa is an inspiration for directors and producers. "Manchu Vishnu plays Kannappa in the movie. I have watched the movie. All the actors have acted well. I bought the distribution rights of the movie for Karnataka," he said.

Dr Mohan Babu, who plays a key character in the movie, said he had an ambition of acting in a Kannada movie. "I had a discussion with the late Ambareesh about acting. I also wanted to share screen space with Dr Shiva Rajkumar but have not done so yet," he said.

Murder mystery

The muhurat function of Kauntheya was held at Kanteerava Studios on Sunday. Veteran actor Shashi Kumar sounded the clap board while lyricist-cum-director Dr V Nagendra Prasad directed the first shot of the movie. Music director-cum-director V Manohar switched on the camera. Producer BK Srinivas, Mahesh Babu, Ravi Teja, Satya Hegde and other prominent personalities of Sandalwood were present on the occasion.

Character artiste Achyuth Kumar and Sharanya Shetty are in the cast of the movie.

"Though the title of the movie reminds one of Karna in Mahabharata, it has nothing to do with mythology.

Kauntheya is a murder and crime thriller. Achyuth Kumar and Sharanya Shetty play a father and daughter in the movie that revolves around a murder. The movie is set to go on floors from June 9. Its shooting will be held in Bengaluru and Mysuru," said Chandrahasa.

Achyuth Kumar said that he plays a sub-inspector of police who is on the verge of retirement. "The movie is about how the sub-inspector solves a murder case and the challenges he faces."